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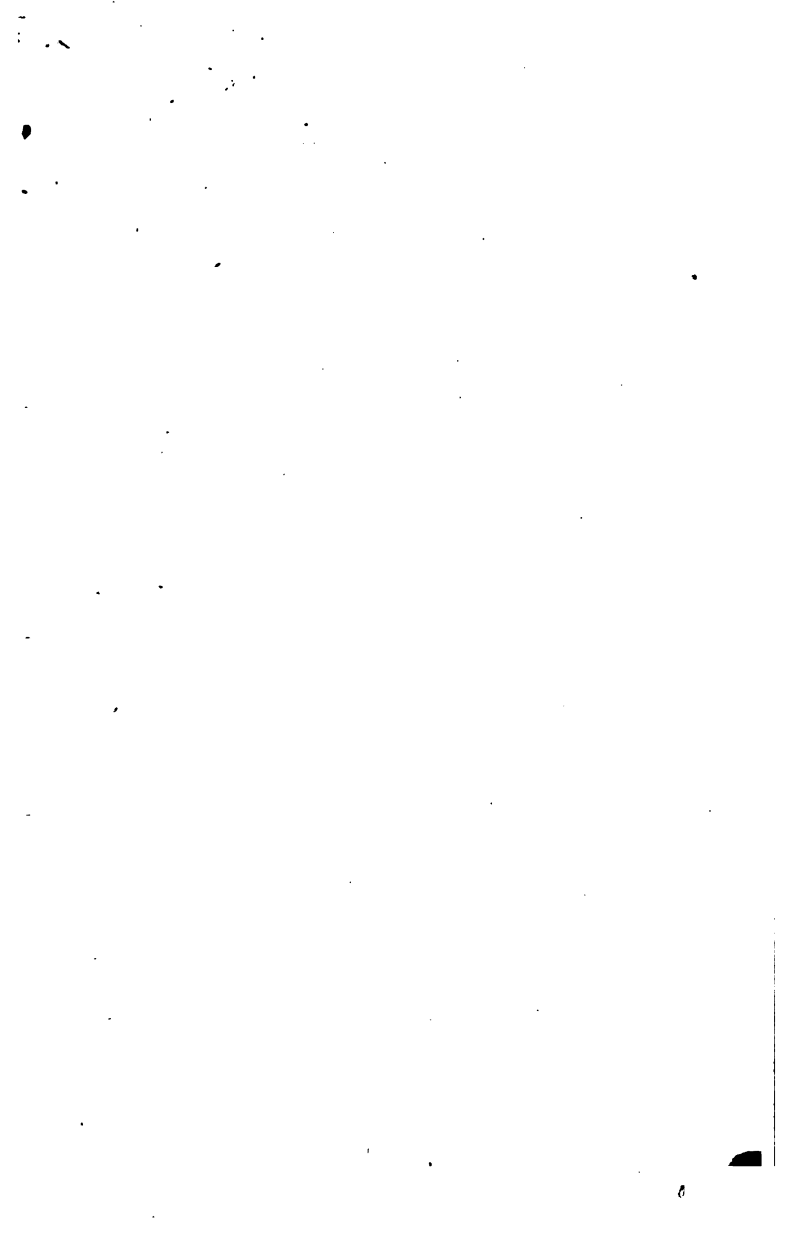
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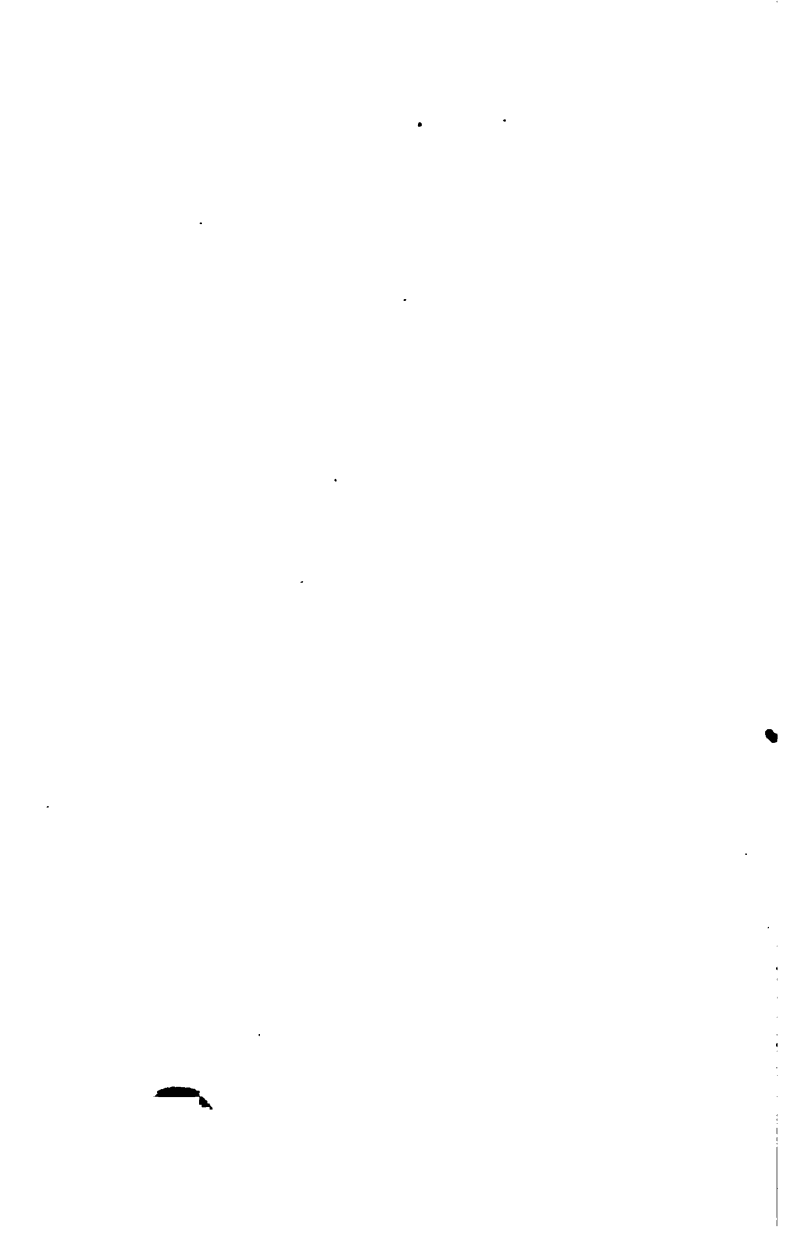
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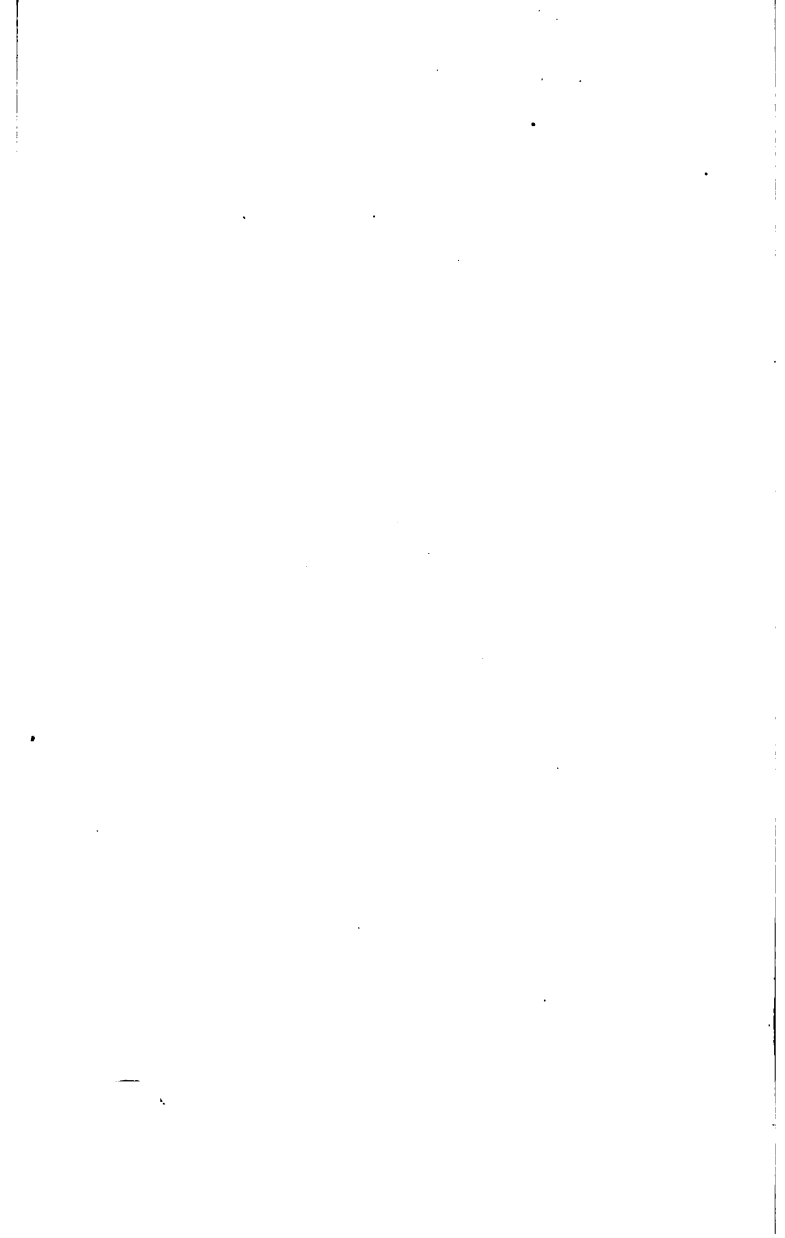
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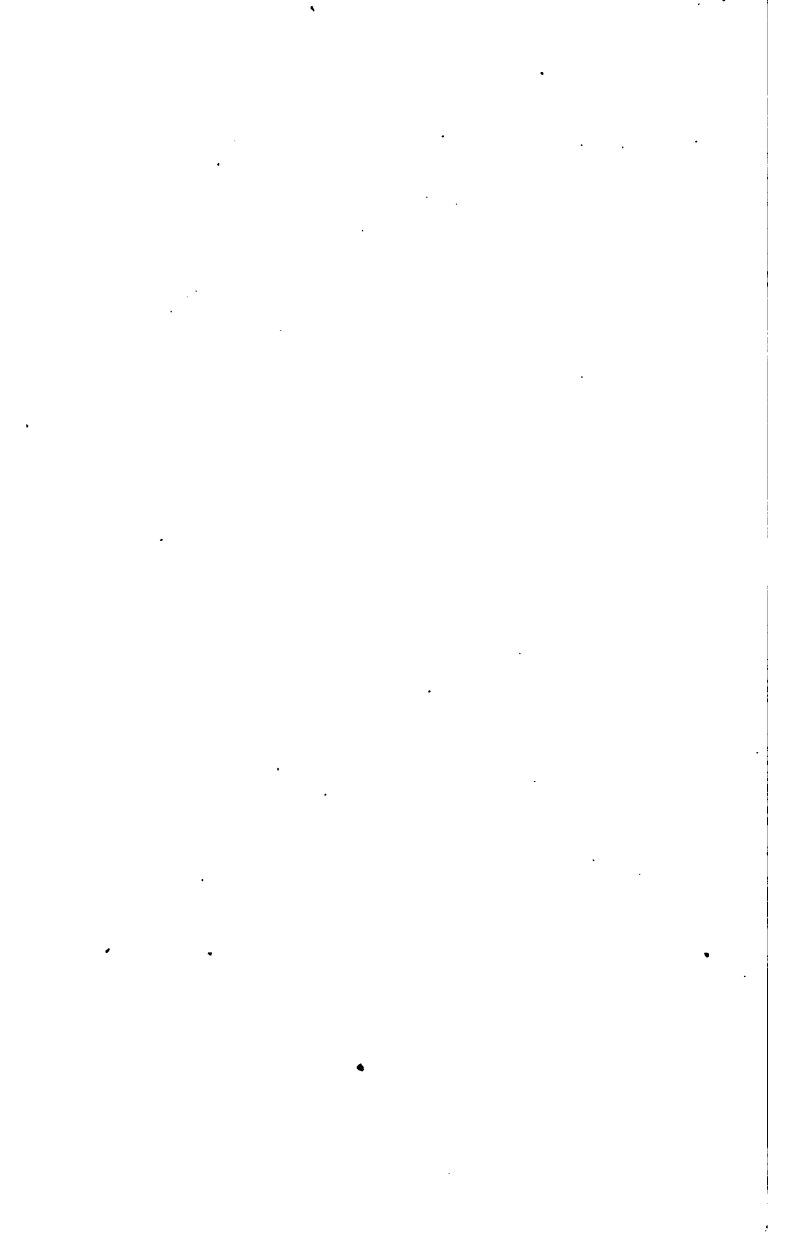
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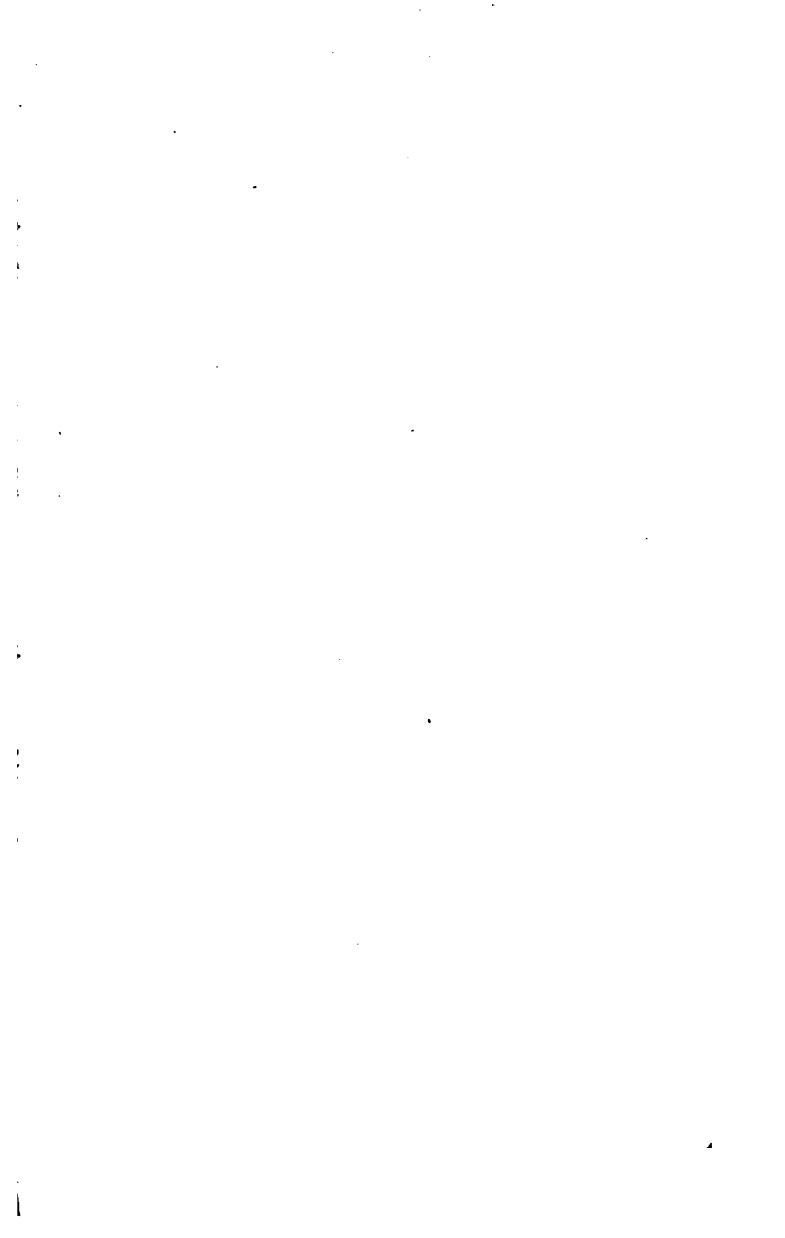
JUNIUS LETTERS

THE

AUTHOR-MYSTERY CLEARED

VICARIUS





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JUNIUS LETTERS



JUNIUS LETTERS

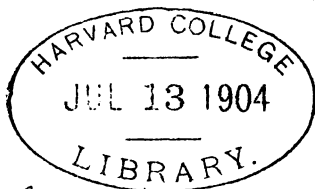
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BY
VICARIUS

LONDON
ELLIOT STOCK, 62, PATERNOSTER ROW
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PREFACE

JUNIUS tells us that "he is the sole depository of his own secret, and that it should perish with him," yet secrets have been revealed and hard things understood. The burial of this secret body took place in the eighteenth century, and is now raised again in the twentieth, and soon all men will hear of it. That Junius's real name should now be revealed by me is not marvellous, although the discovery may be reckoned

so. For a quarter of a century and more I have had this matter before my mind and have known who Junius was, and that he was a Peer. When reading in the "Union" at Oxford in the seventies, getting tired of "Stephen's Commentaries on Common Law," I took up "Junius's Letters," and regaled myself with a draught of this secret spring. Feeling so much refreshed I set out immediately on a voyage of discovery. And now, after much reading and investigating, and patiently waiting, I am fully confirmed in my views, and humbly present them to the public, at present rather in the

form of notes and propositions than in that of a large and finished work.

The political and literary worlds were equally concerned and greatly stirred up to try and discover who Junius was. Burke wanted to know how he came to be so great a puzzle-power. "How comes this Junius to have broken through the cobwebs of the Law, and to range uncontrolled, unpunished, through the land? The myrmidons of the Court have been long, and are still, pursuing him in vain. . . . But what do all their efforts avail? No sooner has he wounded one than he lays down another

dead at his feet. . . . Kings, lords, and Commons are but the sport of his fancy. If he was a member of this House what might not be expected from his knowledge, his firmness and integrity ? . . . Though there may be no spear that will reach him at present he may be *sometime or other caught*." And now he is caught. During my researches I have wondered very much that no writer has noticed the fact that the only man during the season of the letter-writing equal to Junius was the Rev. George Horne (1730-92) who eventually became Dean of Canterbury, and afterwards Bishop of Norwich. Horne was

a friend of Sir Edward Coke, and one of three to whom Parkhurst's Hebrew Lexicon was dedicated in its third edition, and the most powerful opponent of Junius. Walpole, whose life was said to be "neither corroded by care nor disturbed by passion," and who wrote his "Mysterious Mother" was quite unable to fathom the depths of the "Mysterious Junius." Stanhope, Earl of Chesterfield, the British Cicero, and the "Arbiter of elegant manners," was born too soon for Junius, although he lived through the age of "Letters."

Sir Philip Francis, "the undoubted Junius" of the beginning

of last century, for so he was then styled, was too young and inexperienced in matters solid and weighty. He was only thirty years of age, and spending his nights and days at Bath, amidst a company little concerned to know whether such an individual as Junius was in existence or not, and still less to know how he was to be dug up out of his pseudonym grave. And yet Francis was contented to wear the cap of honour the public so willingly pressed upon his brow, until the year 1818, when he died.

Pitt told Lord Aberdeen he knew who Junius was, and that he was *not* Sir Philip Francis.

Lord Temple did not make attacks on men and therefore could not have been Junius. But I need not go over ground that has been already well ploughed, and without success. Thirty-nine names have been put forward and yet neither one of these can bear away the palm. Let them all rest quietly. I have discovered the writer of the letters in the person of Lord Chatham, whose name is fortieth on the roll and the final, for he is the originator of "Junius's Letters"—the author-mystery is now cleared up. "*Stat nominis umbra*" is now *Stat non nominis umbra*.

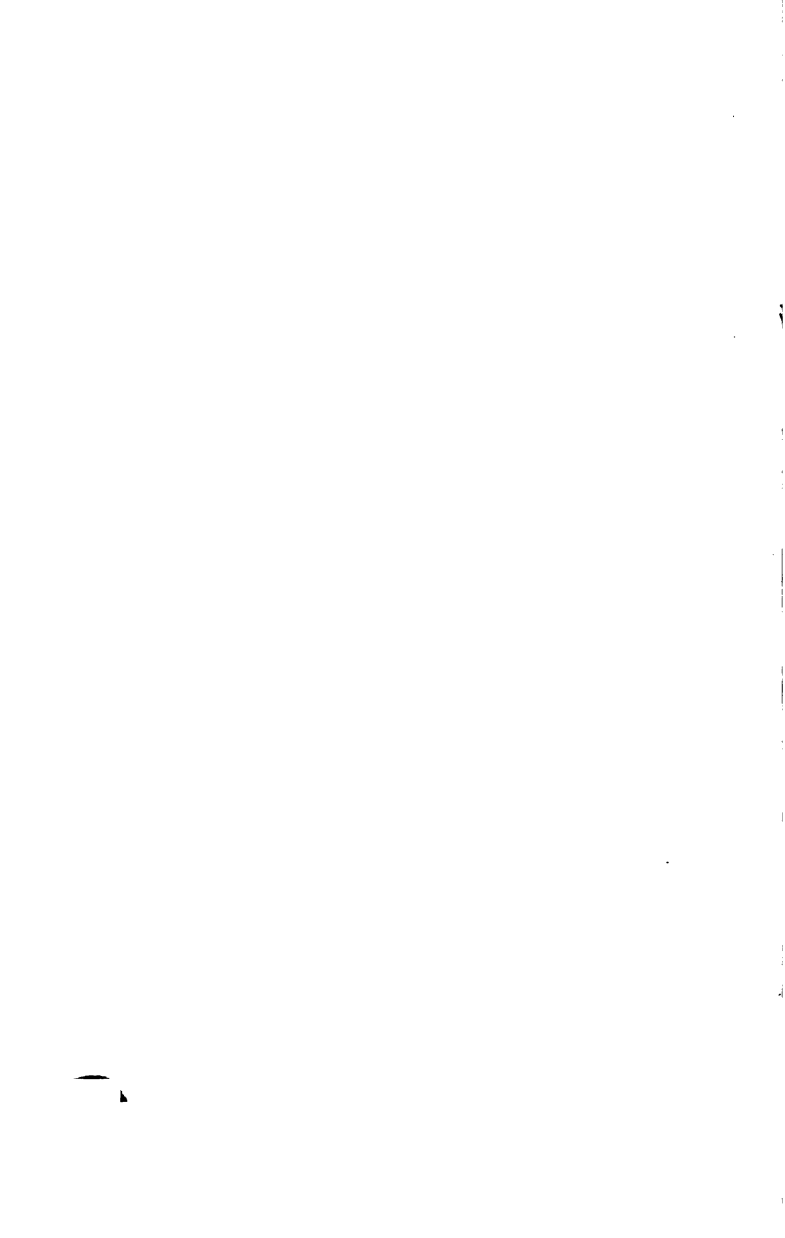
It might be urged by some

readers, *ignoti nulla cupido*, some may say, "nobody wants to know who Junius was, and your key to the hidden treasury comes too late, after more than a century and a quarter !" Late I grant it is, certainly, but I cannot be responsible for a century, and moreover, we do not forget the saying, "*Sero venientibus ossa*," even these late scraps may be interesting and perhaps useful. A second edition will be forthcoming, and a third with portraits and the "Letters" with evidence-extracts underlined.

Whatever may be urged against this little attempt, it cannot be shown that the length of it is

wearisome. In the words of Junius himself I say, "Really to inform the understanding corrects and enlarges the heart."

VICARIUS.



JUNIUS LETTERS

JUNIUS tells us he was "a man of rank and fortune." We may conclude from this that he had a title — that he was Knight, Baronet, Baron, or Peer of the Realm of some degree. He must have had a good fortune ; a few thousand pounds sterling, or a property or stocks amounting to a few thousand pounds sterling would not have been

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considered a fortune, and more especially a fortune becoming a man of rank. "Affluent" means more than a small amount.

Now we know that the Earl of Chatham (the elder Pitt) certainly had his title—his private income was considerable. His "diamond father," as Lord Rosebery calls him, left his son some thousands a year. We have it on record that the Duchess of Marlborough left him £10,000, and a gentleman of Somersetshire, and one whom Pitt had never seen, left him an income from an estate valued at £3,000 to £4,000 a year, so that he was "a man of rank and fortune,

and above a bribe," as Junius states.

Junius must have been an *orator* of the first rank also. The late Lord Chief Justice could worry his opponents but he lacked that forensic power that Junius displayed, whereas the Earl of Chatham was a perfect master of the art. If any one will follow carefully the Philippics of Demosthenes and Junius and compare them, he will find similar arguments and usage of style, and these make it a necessity that Junius must have mastered the great orations.

Demosthenes was always ready to seize on the adversary's

defects, either of position, or fortune, or power, in State or otherwise, and it is well known that this was the choice method of Lord Chatham, and so much so that sometimes he seems to have overdone his attack by following Demosthenes too closely in form, while the surrounding circumstances were so different from those which the world-renowned ancient orator had before him when he addressed the Grecians. Chatham was certainly a great student of Demosthenes, and probably no man has been a closer follower.

Pitt defended himself against Walpole's attack on his *youth* in

that celebrated, though I believe not maiden, speech, which has been published in nearly every book on elocution for the young. In that speech there is a reference to "old age decrepitude," and in his mature years, after he retired from the House of Lords, he still attacked *age*.

In Junius's letter to the Duke of Bedford, September 19, 1769, he says, "Can grey hairs make folly venerable? Is there no period to be reserved for meditation and retirement? For shame, mylord! Let it not be recorded of you that the latest moments of your life were dedicated to the same unworthy pursuits and busy

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agitations in which your youth and your manhood were exhausted. Consider that though you cannot disgrace your former life you are *violating the character of age,*" etc., etc.

Now substitute Chatham for Junius and you will say at once nobody else could have written these words. Towards the end of the Letters we have the expression "smiling of pernicious friends."

Junius says "They are still base enough to encourage the *follies of your age* as they exceeded the vices of your youth."

In Letter I. we have, "Re-

covered from the errors of his youth."

Letter II. has, "In spite of his years and infirmities."

In the tenth Letter we have, "An old man, without the benefit of experience."

In the eleventh, "Allowance for your Grace's youth and inexperience."

In the twelfth, "You had already taken your degrees with credit in those schools in which the English nobility are formed to virtue, when you were introduced to Lord Chatham's protection. . . . He gave you to the world with an air of popularity which young men usually set out

with and seldom preserve ; grave and plausible enough to be thought fit for business ; too young for treachery ; and in short a patriot of no uncompromising expectations. Lord Chatham was the earliest object of your political wonder and attachment ; yet you deserted him, upon the first hopes that offered you equal share of power with Lord Rockingham." Here Junius reminds Lord Grafton of former favours very plainly. [Only Lord Chatham knew this.]

In the thirteenth epistle, " Was not Lord Chatham the first who raised him to the rank and post of a Minister, and the first whom

he abandoned? Is there any mode of thinking or acting, with respect to America, which the Duke of Grafton has not successfully adopted and abandoned?"

Some I know will object to Chatham as the author of these celebrated letters, because they will say, "How could he speak so well of himself?" And yet what man does not speak well of himself? He has Scripture on his side, "Men will praise thee when thou doest well unto thyself," and "What man yet ever hated his own flesh?" etc., certainly not a man of Lord Chatham's temperament.

Junius criticises this noble lord.

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How, then, can Junius be Chatham? Very easily, because the criticism does not hurt him but rather enhances his glory.

Junius says of Lord Grafton, "Lord Chatham formed his last administration upon principles which you concurred in, or you would never have been placed at the head of the Treasury." [Lord Chatham placed him there.] Remarkable and unaccountable words these if Junius was not Lord Chatham!

We notice how intimately acquainted Junius was with the Duke of Grafton's life. "From the very beginning," he says, "you were introduced to Lord

Chatham's protection at Oxford University," etc. "In America we trace you from the first opposition to the Stamp Act, on principles of conscience, to Mr. Pitt's surrender of the right, thenceforward to Lord Rockingham's surrender of the left, then back again to Lord Rockingham's declaration of the right, then forward to taxation with Mr. Townsend. . . . You are once more to be the Patron of America. . . . They will find gratification enough in the survey of *your domestic and Foreign policy.*" [These are key-words of Lord Chatham.]

It must strike any one who

thinks for a moment how curious it is to find Junius, if he was not Lord Chatham, always so full of praise for almost all that Chatham said and did ! Could any man be so infatuated with his fellow ? No, not even Boswell himself can in any way approach in praise this knight of admiration !

Surely there is no man who could possibly know the "ins and outs" of another man's life so perfectly as Junius knew Chatham's on all occasions, including even his inmost thoughts, unless there was a ghost in the way who could reveal secrets. Not one of the thirty-nine persons

whose names have been put forth as the real Junius could have the ghost of a chance.

My choice of the fortieth—Lord Chatham—has no competitor that can touch him. He was the “undoubted Junius”—there can be no other—and controversy, therefore, is now all at an end !

Where all the wit and wisdom for over a century have been hidden it is astounding to think, and it is now left for a humble author to set his revelation before an honourable public, at least one hundred and thirty years after the secret was buried. Lord Temple’s name was one of the thirty-nine names, but

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neither his powers nor literary ability could anything like equal Junius's letters.

A writer has described Lord Chatham in these memorable words, "There was a grandeur in his personal appearance which produced awe and mute attention. . . . He armed his eye with lightning, and clothed his lips with thunder."

Wilkes, his own dear friend, said of him, "He was born an orator. . . . a manly figure with an eagle eye of the great Condé fixed your attention, and if he looked askance at any one there was a fascination in his eye, and nothing could withstand the force

of that eye. The fluent Murray faltered and Fox shrunk back appalled from an adversary 'fought with fire unquenchable,' if I may borrow an expression of our great Milton. He had not the correctness of language so striking in the great Roman orator, but he had the *verba ardentia* — the bold glowing words." This description reminds us of Gladstone, when he flashed and scolded mightily. Lord Chatham in his last great speech, when he endeavoured to persuade the King not to give up America, said, "Let us at least make one effort, and if we fall, let us fall like men!" He fainted

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at the end of his speech, medical aid was called in, he was taken to his house at Hayes, in Kent, and died the 11th of May, 1778, aged threescore years and ten. Junius's *knowledge* of Demosthenes' style of attack and loading his opponent with obloquy was exactly Chatham's mode, and certainly we may say of him as regards oratory, *hombre de un libro*.

In letter No. I. Junius tells us that the reign and prosperity of a country depend on the administration, and if the country is "*prosperous at home and abroad*," [familiar phrases of Lord Chatham,] men of ability and

experience were governing, but if the country had an uneven spirit of distraction, a decay of trade, and loss of respect in the eyes of "*foreign powers*," the government must necessarily be one of inviolate distraction."

Now at the time of writing these words Chatham was in retirement; he had left the government some months previously, and of course "things were going back fast."

Junius says, "So far back as seventeen years there was prosperity at home, and abroad we were respected and feared." [Well-known expressions of Lord Chatham.] "The finances of a

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nation sinking under its debts and expenses are committed to a young nobleman already ruined by play." [This was the young Lord Bute.]

As to *handwriting* evidence, we know how easy it is to find another to do the mechanical part. In this instance, if it can be shown that the writing was that of Lady Temple, it argues no more than that she was used as amanuensis. But I am inclined to think that it was a disguised hand rather than one of a copyist or amanuensis.

The *time* of writing the Letters is a most important item in my argument. The Junius letters

were written between January 1769 and 1772. The letters show that they were written by one not in office under the government, but by somebody who, though not in office, was fully conversant with all that was going on, having been so lately behind the scenes in the government, and one who had a most intimate acquaintance with all the Cabinet doings, as well as a full knowledge of the King's next move. [Who knew so much and so well as Chatham?] Compare Junius's tremendous warning and protest against George III.'s wish to give up America, and Chatham's last powerful speech

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on the same subject in the House of Lords. In 1774, when Chatham appeared to oppose the King's declaration to give up America, the effort made by him to prevent what he considered such a catastrophe drew forth all Lord Chatham's utmost energies, and he seemed to revive all his youthful eloquence. Finally, on the 7th of April, Chatham heard that it had been decided that America was really to be surrendered, and that the Duke of Richmond was to move an address to the Crown for this purpose ; he rose from his sick bed, hastened to the Lords, and opposed the motion in a most

magnificent and powerful speech, and in this speech he said, " Shall we tarnish the lustre of this nation by an ignominious surrender of its rights and best possessions ? Shall this great kingdom, which has survived whole and entire the Danish depredations, the Scottish inroads, the Norman Conquest, that has stood the threatened invasion of the Spanish Armada, now fall prostrate before the house of Bourbon ? Surely this nation is no longer what it was ! Shall a people that seventeen years ago ¹ was the terror of the world now stoop so low as to tell its ancient,

¹ Chatham was then Prime Minister Pitt.

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inveterate enemy, 'Take all we have, only give us peace' ? It is impossible," etc.

It is essentially necessary that we should take notice of the *resignation* of Lord Chathan, and Junius's commencement of writing the letters. Chatham resigned 2nd November, 1768, and the letters were began 21st January, 1769. Leaving out a fortnight for the general rejoicing, and family parties at the festive season of Christmas, within a month or six weeks the writer of the letters was at work. It should be remembered that Lord Chatham did not resign in joy or thanksgiving, the tide was turning

against him, and hence in these letters he turns the tide against those who had occupied his place in the Cabinet, etc. In the *first* letter Junius says, "Perhaps there never was an instance of a *change* in the circumstances and temper of a whole nation so sudden and extraordinary as that which the conduct of ministers has within these last few years produced in Great Britain." And again, "It is the pernicious hand of the Government which alone can make a whole people desperate. Without much political sagacity or any extraordinary depths of observation, we need only notice how the principal departments

of the State are bestowed, and look no further for the *true cause* of any mischief that befalls us."

Accordingly, we have the ministers attacked and their policy, by at least an old parliamentary hand, though not in office. In Junius's own edited edition of the letters he mentions no list of portraits, although there were no less than twelve: the Earl of Selbourne, the Marquis of Granby, the Duke of Grafton, John Wilkes, Esq., Judge Blackstone, Sir William Draper, the Duke of Bedford, Lord Bute, George III., John Horne Took, Lord Camden, and Lord Mans-

field—each of these portraits is in the book.

We look and look again, and we find no portrait of Lord Chatham, the very idolized object of all others. Why is this great omission, notwithstanding all the commendations of Junius upon this great nobleman, and the most important figure in the book, left out? 'Tis a puzzle beyond a puzzle as it stands, but when we discover that Lord Chatham wrote the letters, the whole mystery is cleared, for of course he would not put his own likeness in. It is also very significant that another important portrait is wanting and that the likeness

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of Junius's greatest opponent—
Bishop Horne.

Once more, Junius disliked the Scotch as a people, and so also did Lord Chatham, for he maintained that the Scotch in the Union had the best of it; he was himself essentially English. "Freedom of the Press" was also a favourite expression alike of Lord Chatham and Junius.

We cannot help noticing how fondly attached Junius was to Wilkes—he loved him. Now Sir Philip Francis, who in the early part of last century was put forth as the "identified Junius," hated Wilkes as much almost as Chatham loved him—and he

loved Wilkes dearly. All the men that Chatham chose around him — those who so skilfully worked out his plans—must ever be highly commended. The victorious policy of Pitt ruined military France so that she could no longer lead the European Councils. In 1770 Chatham went into the House of Lords, not for Cabinet but for criticism, with power of oratory as strong as ever. His very silence after resignation gave him time for thought and working up the letters ; his mind seemed as fresh in the House as a mind only could after quiet study and writing letters like the Junius epistles.

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Dr. Johnson once said, that while Walpole (the one who attacked Chatham in his youth and drew forth that early speech and castigation on vicious *age*) "was given to the people by the King, Pitt was given by the people to the King." How often Junius upheld the policy of Lord Chatham and the freedom of the people is well known. It was said by those abroad, "With Chatham at the helm Britons were invincible." But notwithstanding all this, Lord Rosebery, in his unique little book on William Pitt the younger, considers that the elder Pitt (Lord Chatham) must bow to the

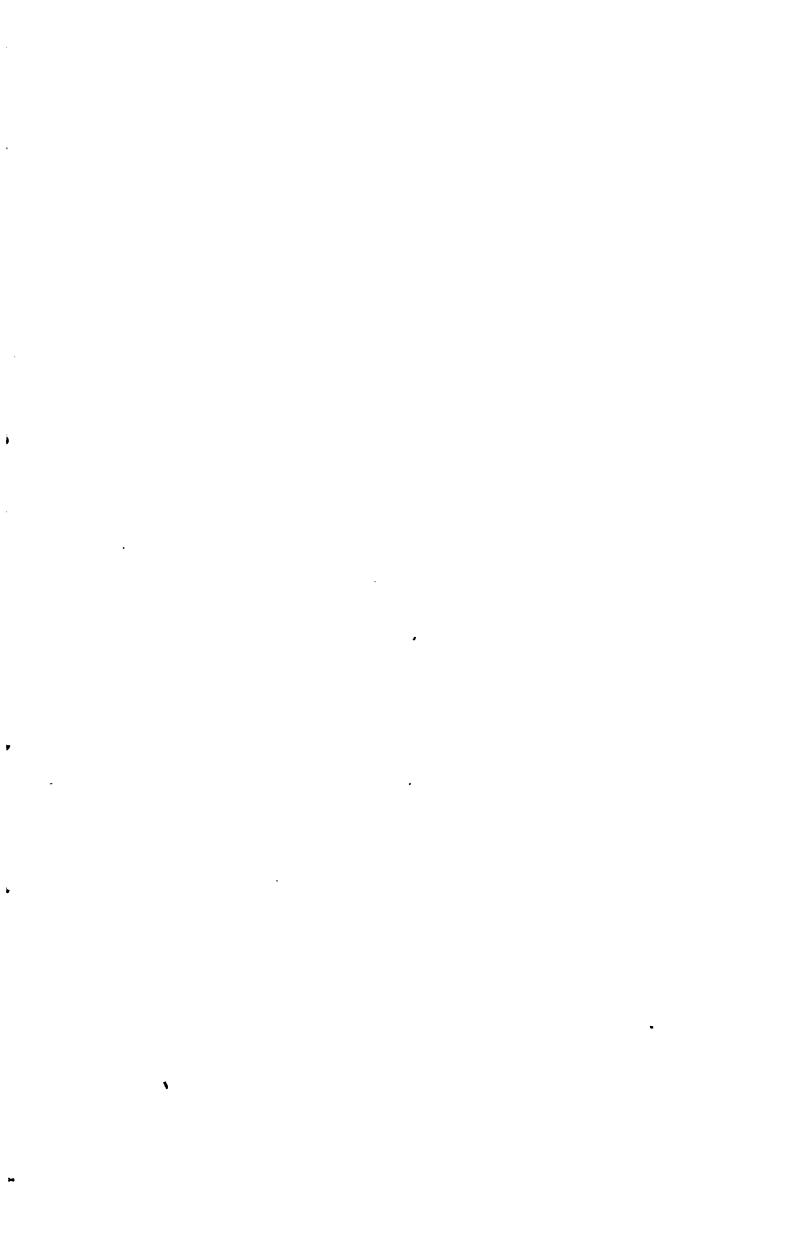
younger in the matter of superiority. And yet even Lord Rosebery steps into the witness box at last, and gives his evidence in my case and says, "That no sooner did the elder Pitt lead the House than every nerve was braced and the British arms extended in complete vigour! Never was there a minister better suited to the genius of Englishmen in those days, prompt and daring in the enterprise, bold and rapid in execution." And we find Lord Rosebery declaring not as Burns wrote, "Rank is but the guinea's stamp," *but this*, "The heraldic epithets for once were not misapplied—the noble and

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puissant William Pitt, Earl of Chatham." In a subsequent edition of his work he will now be able to add to his epithet of Lord Chatham this of mine, "AND THE AUTHOR OF THE WORLD-RENOWNED AND EVER-FAMOUS 'JUNIUS LETTERS.'"

THE END.

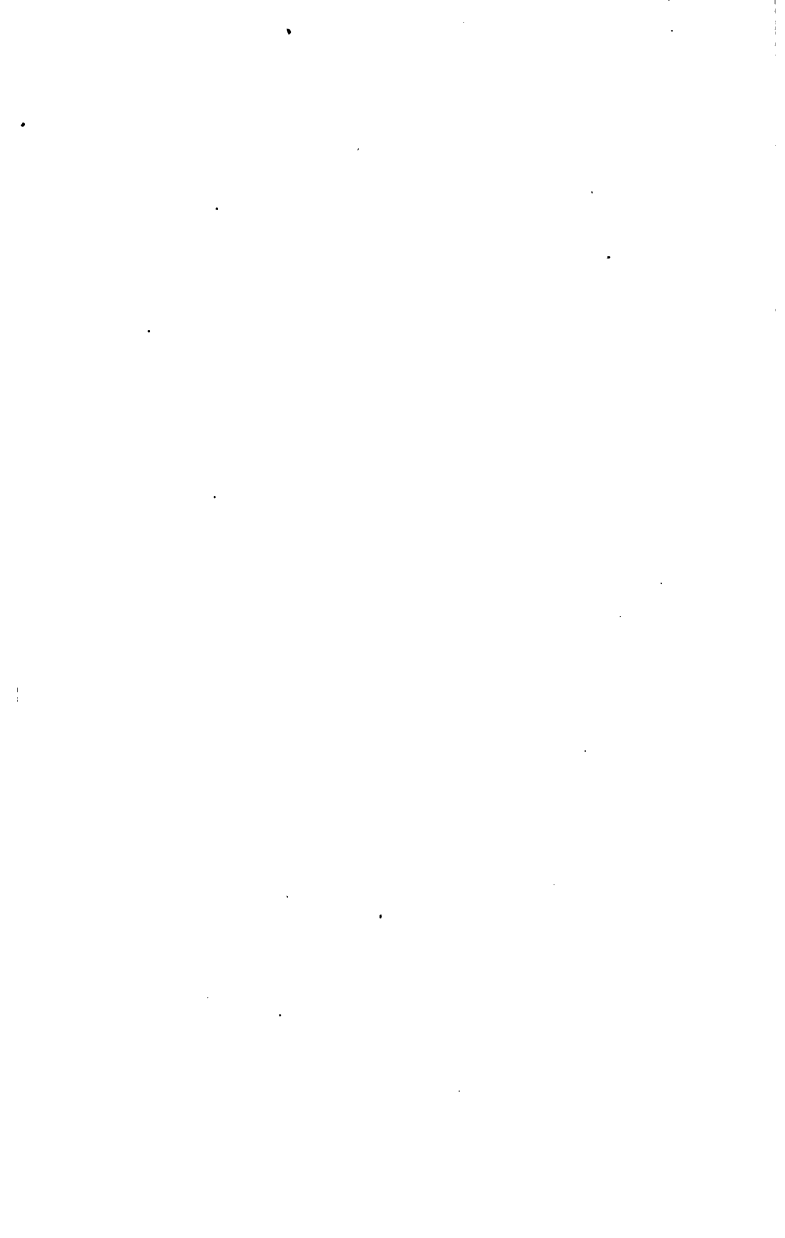
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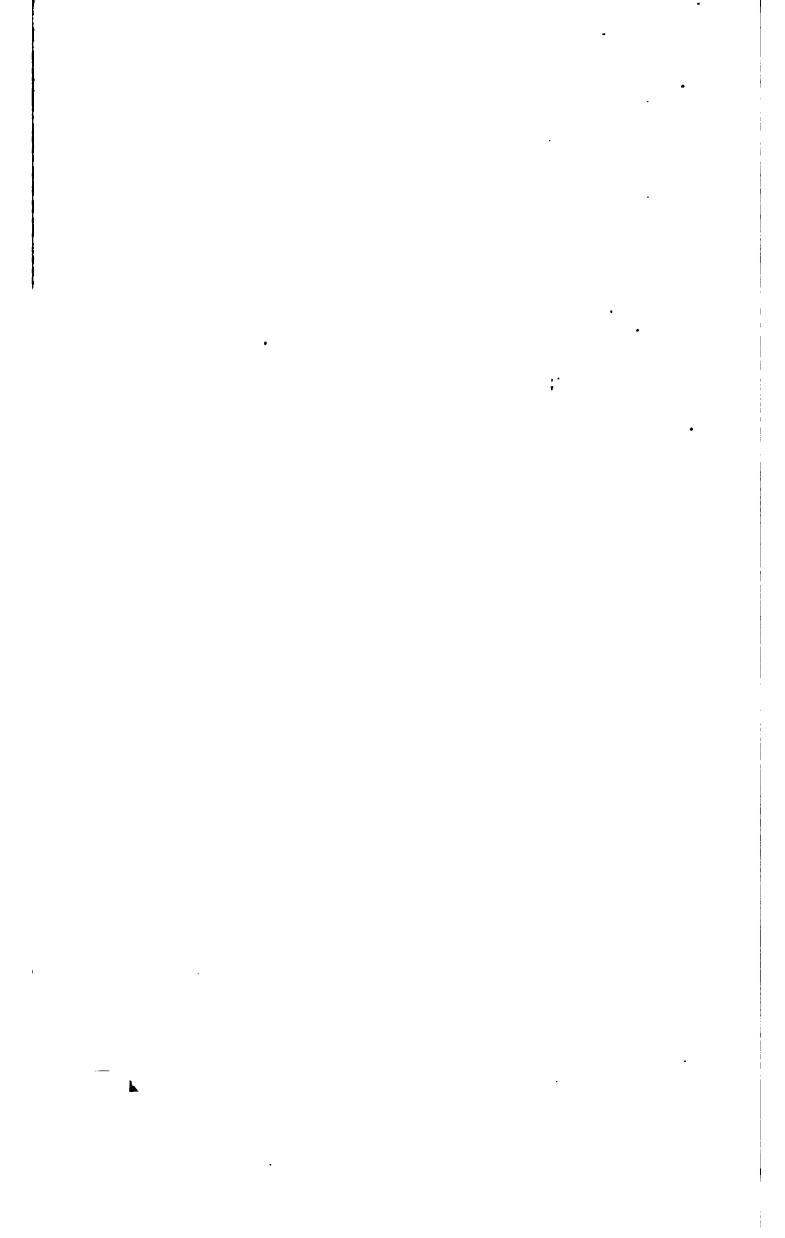




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